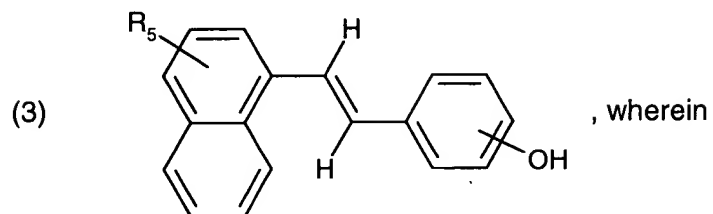


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

Claims 1-15 (cancelled).

16. (original): A compound of formula

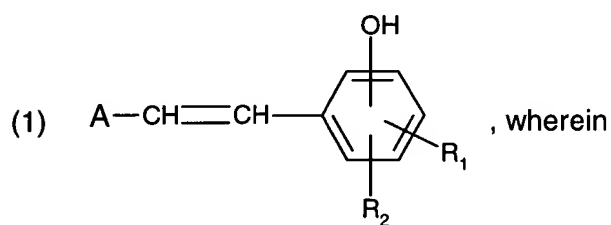


R_5 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{16} alkyl, C_1 - C_{16} alkoxy, phenyl; C_1 - C_3 phenylalkyl; C_6 - C_{10} aryloxy; amino; mono- C_1 - C_5 alkylamino; di- C_1 - C_5 alkylamino; or $-NO_2$.

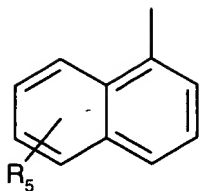
17. (original): A compound according to claim 16, wherein

R_5 is hydrogen.

18. (currently amended): A method of ~~antimicrobially treating a surface~~ antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa and hair, which comprises applying thereto an antimicrobially effective amount of a hydroxystilbene compound of the formula

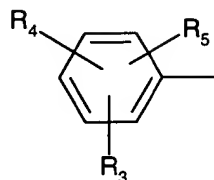


A is a radical of formula (1a)



; or a radical of

formula (1b)



; and

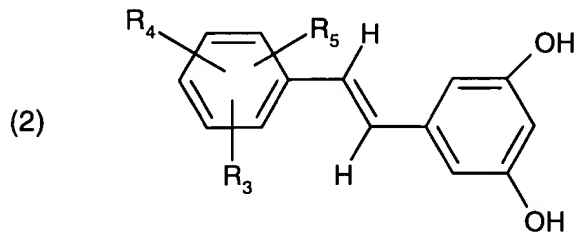
R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are each independently of the others hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{16} alkyl, C_1 - C_{16} alkoxy, phenyl; C_1 - C_3 phenylalkyl; C_6 - C_{10} aryloxy, amino, mono- C_1 - C_5 alkylamino, di- C_1 - C_5 alkylamino, or $-NO_2$.

19. (previously presented): A method according to claim 18, wherein, in formula (1), R_1 and R_2 are hydroxy.

20. (previously presented): A method according to claim 18, wherein the compound of formula (1) is in the E- or Z-form.

21. (previously presented): A method according to claim 20, wherein the compound of formula (1) is in the E-form.

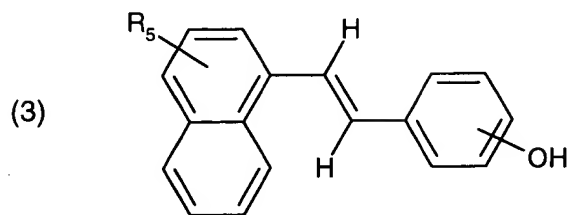
22. (previously presented): A method according to claim 18, wherein there is used a compound of formula



wherein R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are as defined in claim 18.

23. (previously presented): A method according to claim 22, wherein, in formula (2), R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are hydrogen.

24. (previously presented): A method according to claim 18, wherein there is used a compound of formula



wherein R₅ is as defined in claim 18.

25 (cancelled).

26. (currently amended): A method according to claim ~~25~~ 18, wherein the compound of formula (1) is used in disinfection and deodorisation.

27. (cancelled).

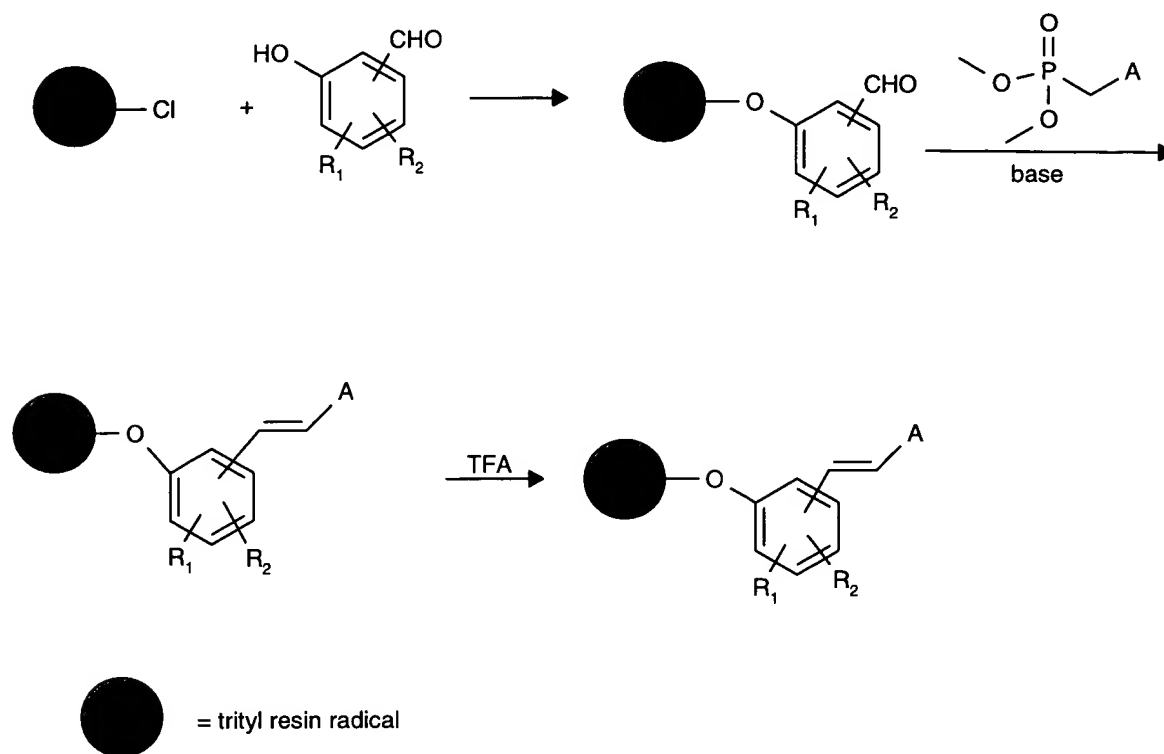
28. (currently amended): A method of ~~preserving a substrate~~ protecting skin, mucosa and hair against antimicrobial damage, which comprises applying thereto an antimicrobially effective amount of a hydroxystilbene compound of the formula (1) according to claim 18.

29. (currently amended): A method of washing and cleaning ~~a substrate~~ skin, mucosa and hair, which comprises washing and cleaning ~~the substrate~~ skin, mucosa and hair with a washing and cleaning formulation containing an antimicrobially effective amount of a hydroxystilbene compound of the formula (1) according to claim 18.

30. (cancelled).

31. (previously presented): A personal care preparation, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 18, and a cosmetically tolerable adjuvant.

32. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (1) according to claim 18, which process comprises preparing them in a solid-phase synthesis using a trityl resin in accordance with the following scheme:



STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 16-32 were pending in this application.

Claims 18-23 and 25-31 are rejected.

Claim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 16, 17 and 32 are allowed.

Claims 25, 27 and 30 have been presently cancelled.

Claims 18, 26, 28, and 29 have been amended.

Claims 18-24, 26, 28, 29 and 31 are presented for reconsideration.

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation that claim 24 is merely objected to and that claims 16, 17 and 32 are directed to allowable subject matter.

The claims have been amended in accord with the current rules in which underlining shows additions and strikethrough shows deletions.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim a preferred aspect of their invention, cosmetic, i.e. non-therapeutic personal care applications, i.e. the treatment of human skin, mucosa and hair. Thus, the limits of claim 25 have been incorporated into claim 18. Since claims 25, 27 and 30 fail to further limit amended claim 18, they have been presently cancelled. Additionally, claims 26, 28, and 29 have been amended due to the narrowing of claim 18. No new matter has been added.

Claims 18, 20, 21, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Webster et al. (WO 95/03695).